GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:308
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2000
PER CAPITA FOREST COVER
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita forest cover in India compared to the world average and the developing world;

(b) whether India`s per capita forest cover is lowest in the world;

(c) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Joint Forest Management Programme started a decade earlier has not achieved the desired results;

(e) if so, whether some State Governments have requested for allotment of funds to Zila Parishads or Village Panchayats under this Programme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to increase per capita forest cover and efficient implementation of Joint Forest Management Programme in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PART (a) to (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 308 FOR 11.12.2000 REGARI PER CAPITA FOREST COVER

(a), (b) & (c) Per capita forest cover in India is 0.08 ha as against the world`s average of 0.64 ha. India`s per capita forest is not the lowest in the world. The per capita availability of forest cover in some of the developing countries of Asia are given in Annexure. Lower per capita forest in India is due to increase in human population.

(d) Studies reveal that Joint Forest Management has been successful in protection and conservation of forests in the country.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise. However, following important measures have been taken to increase per capita forest cover and efficient implementation of Joint Forest Management.

(i) Afforestation programmes are undertaken by State/UT Governments from their own resourcesas well as with financial assistance from Government of India.

(ii) Externally aided projects are being implemented for development and preservation of forests.

(iii) Guidelines to all State/UT Governments to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of degraded forests.

(iv) Forest(Conservation Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate the diversion of forest lands.

(v) A net work of protected areas has been established.

(vi) Ministry has prepared a National Forestry Action Programme to enhance the contribution offorestry and tree resources for ecological stability and people centered development through improvement in investment for conservation and development of forest resources.

(vii) The Joint Forest Management Programme in the country has been reviewed by the Ministry inconsultation with State Governments, NGOs and other stakeholders, from time to time.

(viii) A Joint Forest Management Cell has been constituted in the Ministry for monitoring andco-ordinating activities of Joint Forest Management in various States and achievement of its objectives.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN PART (a) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 308 FOR 11.12 REGARDING PER CAPITA FOREST COVER

Region-wise/country-wise per capita forest cover

Name of the country	Per capita forest (in ha.)
World	0.64
Asia	0.1
Africa	0.7
China	0.1
Pakistan	0.01
Nepal	0.2
Bangladesh	0.02
Srilanka	0.1
Indonesia	0.6
Malaysia	0.8
Philippines	0.1